

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, and 10 have been amended herein. No new claims have been added.

1. Claim Objections

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 9-10 are objected to because of certain informalities.

Applicant's have amended the claims to overcome these objections, as follows:

Claim 1, step (a), has been amended to replace "homogenous" with --homogeneous--.

Claim 1, step (b), (c), and (d) has been amended to replace "preform" with --body--.

Claim 1, step (d), "suitable" has been deleted.

Claim 7, line 1, has been amended to replace "claim 1 wherein" with --claim 1 wherein—thereby adding a space.

Claims 5 and 7, step (b) has been amended to replace "spraying drying" with --spray drying--.

Claim 9, has been amended to replace "preform" with --body--.

Claim 10, line 1, has been amended to insert "support" after catalyst.

2. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Respectfully, the rejection is overcome. Claim 2 is amended to refer to an alumina-source selected from the group consisting of gamma-alumina, boehmite, pseudo-boehmite and mixtures thereof. Accordingly, the 112, second paragraph rejection should be withdrawn.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaffe (US Patent 4,289,653).

Respectfully, the 103(a) rejection is traversed. Jaffe teaches a sol gel method wherein liquid components (alkali metal silicate solution and an ammonium salt solution) are mixed with a strong acid to form the sol gel. In the present invention, an alumina-silica powder component is combined with a liquid and an organic binder to form the plasticized batch. Jaffe does not include an "alumina-silica powder component." Further, it does not seem to teach the use of a "binder" as claimed. Accordingly, the present invention, i.e., a method of achieving an alumina-silica catalyst support by a dry batch method is in no way taught or suggested by the Jaffe reference. Accordingly, the present claims are not obvious in view of Jaffe.

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4. Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art of record cited and not relied upon by the Examiner is no more material to the pending claims than the reference relied upon by Examiner.

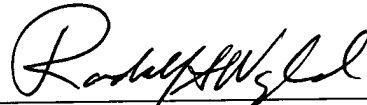
5. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, Applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants believe that a one (1) month extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Randall S. Wayland at 607-974-0463.

Respectfully submitted,



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